

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3 and ending at line 12, as follows:

Note that in order to achieve the above-mentioned object, not only is it possible to embody the present invention as a content distribution method including, as steps, the characteristic units of the content distribution server, the content output apparatus and the key issuing center, but also as programs including all these steps. It should also be noted that such programs can not only be stored in a ROM and the like incorporated in the content distribution server, the content output apparatus and the key issuing center, but also be distributed on a recording medium such as a CD-ROM ~~and~~or via a communication network.